

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 227694
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 227694

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 227694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 7, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION WITH NAMIBIA IN VIEW OF SOUTH
AFRICA'S CRITICISM OF THE U.N. PLAN FOR NAMIBIA AS FAR
AS SENDING 7,000 TROOPS?

A. I THINK YOU HAVE TO BE FAIRLY CAREFUL ABOUT THAT.
SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, FOR INSTANCE, WHO JUST DEPARTED TO GO BACK TO
SOUTH AFRICA FOR CONSULTATIONS, THAT THAT DEPARTURE IN
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 227694

NO WAY INDICATES A BREAK-OFF IN THE ONGOING NAMIBIAN
DISCUSSIONS AND THEY HAVE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT
SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A REJECTION OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON ARRANGEMENTS
FOR TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA. I THINK THEY
RAISE SOME SPECIFIC POINTS ASKING FOR WHAT I THINK WAS
A TWENTY PAGE LETTER TO MR. BOTHA, BUT I DO NOT THINK
THAT IN ANY WAY THAT LETTER OR ANYTHING THEY SAID TO US
OR TO OTHERS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A REJECTION OF THE

SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT -- THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

Q. HAVE YOU PUT TOGETHER ANYTHING ON THE POSITION OF
JOSHUA NKOMO'S CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING SHOT
DOWN THAT RHODESIAN AIRLINE AND IAN SMITH'S THREAT TO
CRACK DOWN?

A. I DON'T WANT TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS. I REALLY DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING THAT I KNOW BEYOND THE PRESS REPORTS
THEMSELVES OF MR. SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT. I THINK, AS
WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THAT EACH ELEMENT OF VIOLENCE

IN A SITUATION SUCH AS THIS ALMOST INEVITABLY RESULTS IN A FURTHER STEP IN VIOLENCE AND THAT IS WHY WE DEPLORE AND CONDEMN THE ACTION AGAINST THAT AIRPLANE AND WE ONLY HOPE THAT IN THIS INSTANCE THAT MR. SMITH COULD, IN FACT, AND THE GOVERNMENT THERE WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN FURTHER VIOLENCE.

Q. IF SMITH AND MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AND THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOTHING BY WAY OF RETALIATION, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT MR. MUGABE AND MR. NKOMO WILL STOP THE VIOLENCE AND, IF SO, ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU PROCEED UNDER SUCH AN ASSUMPTION?

A. I THINK THAT INEVITABLY VIOLENCE DOES BEGET MORE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 227694

VIOLENCE. BUT I AM NOT TRYING TO CLAIM THAT YOU NECESSARILY FOLLOW FROM THAT THAT NO RETALIATION MEANS NO MORE VIOLENCE. I HAVE NO WAY TO DRAW THAT CONCLUSION.

Q. BACK TO RHODESIA, IS THE U.S. TAKING ANY ACTION TO TRY TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE COMING FROM IAN SMITH'S GOVERNMENT THAT MAY BE HINDERED BY HIS STATEMENT, ANY DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE BEING TAKEN AS A RESULT OF HIS STATEMENT?

A. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC ABOUT IT, THAT IS TO SAY WHO SAID WHAT TO WHOM OR WHERE, WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO TRY TO DAMP DOWN THE VIOLENCE THERE AND BRING THEM TO A NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY, YOU KNOW, WHAT REPRESENTATIVE SAID WHAT TO WHOM. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH THE BRITISH, AS YOU KNOW, AND OTHERS IN THIS SAME FIELD.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER BISHOP MUZOREWA WILL HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANY AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN LONDON?

A. SINCE WE ARE NOW IN A VAGUE ALLUSION AS TO WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, LET ME JUST NOTE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND HEAD OF THE POLICY PLANNING BUREAU, MR. LAKE, WILL BE GOING TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES OVER THE WEEKEND, I BELIEVE PERHAPS TONIGHT -- IN ANY CASE, FOR CONSULTATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND AND IT IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL AND SO COINCIDENTAL WE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT IT AT THE TIME THIS TRIP WAS PLANNED THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA WILL BE IN LONDON AT THE SAME TIME. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PLANS TO MEET WITH HIM. THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WON'T HAPPEN. IT IS, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 227694

JUST FRANKLY, SOMETHING WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS GOING TO BE COINCIDENTAL. MR. MOOSE AND MR. LAKE WILL BE MEETING WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE NOW ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

Q. IS IT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTION IN VIEW THAT THIS IS REALLY REALISTICALLY TRYING TO PREVENT VIOLENCE ON BOTH SIDES WHEN YOU IMPOSE AN ARMS EMBARGO ON ONE SIDE KNOWING THAT THERE IS AN ENORMOUS FLOW OF WEAPONS COMING IN FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON THE OTHER?

A. YES. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CAPABLE OF INHIBITING VIOLENCE WE TRY TO DO SO. OUR ABILITY OBVIOUSLY TO EFFECT THE ACTIONS OF ALL OTHER PARTIES IS LIMITED, PARTICULARLY SOME OF THOSE YOU HAVE MENTIONED.

Q. WE COULD LIST THE EMBARGO; COULD WE NOT?

A. I AM NOT SURE THAT WE -- I AM SURE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DOING THAT WOULD BE EITHER IN KEEPING WITH OUR PARTICULAR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE RESOLUTION WHICH HAS IMPOSED IT NOR WOULD IT HELP AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED WITH TAMPING DOWN VIOLENCE.

CHRISTOPHER

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